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Sfrc

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6 August 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Debriefing of Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Staff Members

1. On 20 July 1984, three Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC) Staff members, Hans Binnendijk, Cas Yost and Peter Galbraith were debriefed on their recent trip to the Persian Gulf by DI/NESA analysts [redacted]

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[redacted] I asked for the meeting at the request of DI/NESA whose interest in a discussion was sparked by cable traffic from the field regarding meetings between the Committee staffers and foreign officials. The debriefing evolved into an exchange of information as the staffers also sought the analysts' reactions to various issues and impressions involving the current situation in the Gulf. [redacted]

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2. The two-hour discussion covered a wide range of subjects including the Iran-Iraq military standoff, the possibility of stepped-up Iraqi air attacks against Khark Island, Iranian threats to mine the Straits of Hormuz, and the response of Saudi Arabia and its smaller neighbors to the Iranian threat. The Committee staffers noted a positive Gulf reaction to Washington's muted response to the Saudi shoot-down of an Iranian aircraft in June and indicated that overall regional concerns about a major international conflict in the Gulf appear to have eased. The critical unknown factor is whether Khomeini will decide to initiate a full-scale offensive against Iraq and try to employ terrorist tactics aimed at destabilizing the smaller Gulf states. [redacted]

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3. The SFRC staffers said they would be writing a paper on the Persian Gulf on behalf of the Committee. We offered to be responsive to any further question on the region should they desire it. [redacted]

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